

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are active in the present application. Claims 1-9 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and for clarity. No new matter is believed to have been added. An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

--1. (Amended) A rubber-modified styrenic resin [with] comprising a plurality of particles of a rubbery polymer, said particles dispersed in said resin, [dispersed therein, which is characterized in that its] wherein said resin has a continuous phase [has] with a weight-average molecular weight (MwL) [falling] of between 180,000 and 280,000, and [that] wherein the weight-average molecular weight (MwL) and the 1 cm drawdown time (sec) of [the] a resin sheet satisfy the following formula:

$$1 \text{ cm drawdown time (sec)} > (MwL/10^4) - 4.0.$$

2. (Amended) The rubber-modified styrenic resin as claimed in claim 1, [of which] wherein the continuous phase has a degree of branching of from 0.2 to 1.0 for [its] an absolute molecular weight of 1,000,000 measured in GPC/LALLS.

3. (Amended) The rubber-modified styrenic resin as claimed in claim 1 [or 2, of which] wherein the rubbery polymer content [falls] is between 3 and 12 % by mass.

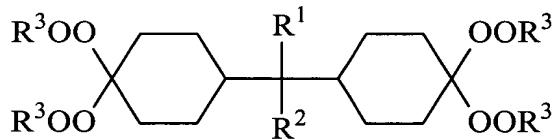
4. (Amended) A method for producing [a] the rubber-modified styrenic resin of [any of claims 1 to 3 by] claim 1, comprising

polymerizing a rubbery polymer and a monomer component consisting essentially of a styrenic monomer in the presence of a polyfunctional initiator, wherein [the] an amount of

the polyfunctional initiator [falls] is between 50 and 500 ppm relative to the monomer component consisting essentially of a styrenic monomer.

5. (Amended) The method for producing a rubber-modified styrenic resin as claimed in claim 4, wherein [the] an amount of the polyfunctional initiator [falls] is between 100 and 500 ppm relative to the monomer component consisting essentially of a styrenic monomer.

6. (Amended) The method for producing [a] the rubber-modified styrenic resin as claimed in claim 4 [or 5], wherein the polyfunctional initiator is a tetrafunctional organic compound of the following [general] formula:



wherein R¹ and R² each represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 or 2 carbon atoms; and R³ represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms.

7. (Amended) The method for producing [a] the rubber-modified styrenic resin as claimed in [any of claims 4 to 6] claim 4, wherein the polyfunctional initiator is 2,2-bis(4,4-di-t-butylperoxycyclohexyl)propane.

8. (Amended) A method for producing [a] the rubber-modified styrenic resin of [any of claims 1 to 3 by] claim 1, comprising

polymerizing a rubbery polymer and a monomer component consisting essentially of a styrenic monomer in the presence of an unsaturated compound having a plurality of copolymerizing double bonds, wherein [the] an amount of the unsaturated compound [falls] is between 50 and 250 ppm relative to the monomer component consisting essentially of a styrenic monomer.

9. (Amended) A rubber-modified styrenic resin sheet prepared by molding the rubber-modified styrenic resin of [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1--